

What is claimed is:

1. A method for delivering a protein to the retina of a subject in need of such delivery, comprising periocularly injecting the individual with an effective amount of a viral vector comprising a protein-encoding nucleic acid.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the protein is an endostatin.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the endostatin is a polypeptide fragment of the polypeptide with the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, a derivative of the polypeptide with the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, or a variant of the polypeptide with the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus, an adeno-associated virus, a retrovirus, and a lentivirus.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the viral vector is an adenoviral vector.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the protein is a member selected from the group consisting of soluble vascular endothelial growth factor receptor, pigment epithelium-derived factor, angiostatin (plasminogen fragment), rod-derived cone viability factor, antiangiogenic antithrombin III, cartilage-derived inhibitor (CDI), CD59 complement fragment, fibronectin fragment, Gro-beta, a heparinase, human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG), an interferon, interferon inducible protein (IP-10), interleukin-12, kringle 5 (plasminogen fragment), metalloproteinase inhibitors (TIMPs), placental ribonuclease inhibitor, plasminogen activator inhibitor, platelet factor-4 (PF4), prolactin 16kD fragment, proliferin-related protein (PRP), thrombospondin-1 (TSP-1), transforming growth factor-beta (TGF-b), vasculostatin, and vasostatin (calreticulin fragment).

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus, an adeno-associated virus, a retrovirus, and a lentivirus.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the viral vector is an adenoviral vector.
9. The method of claim 4, wherein the viral vector is a lentiviral vector.
10. The method of claim 7, wherein the viral vector is a lentiviral vector.
11. The method of claim 9, wherein the lentiviral vector is derived from a bovine immunodeficiency virus.
12. The method of claim 10, wherein the lentiviral vector is derived from a bovine immunodeficiency virus.